

If my ingenious Friend can, by any *vermifugous* Preparation, bring away or destroy this pernicious *Animalcule*, which commonly fore-runs, breeds and cherishes the *other*, I will not only promise him all the Assistance in my Power, but likewise undertake for the Encouragement and Approbation of all honest Men. A.



N^o 40. Monday, April 24, 1727.

Tros, Tyriusve suat, nullo Discrimine habebo.

VIRG.



HO' nothing is more commonly talk'd of and wish'd for in Conversation, as a desirable Blessing, than a COALITION of Parties, and the Extinction of all those mischievous Denominations, which have so long kept up our intestine Divisions and exasperated one Part of the Kingdom against the other ; yet nothing seems to have been really less design'd, or attempted by Persons of *either Side* ; whose Conduct and Proceedings are living Contradictions to their Words and Professions. They are all forward, in their Turns, to lament the unhappy Distinctions, which prevail amongst us ; and at the same Time equally contribute their Assistance to promote and inflame them ; by bringing every Action, either of a publick or private Nature, to this Test, and deciding the Affairs of the World more by Party and Faction, than by Truth, Reason and Equity.

This Spirit of *Animosity* and *Division* is, in a Manner, *hereditary* and *innate* ; or, at least, like the Passion of *Love*, it is easily kindled in youthful Minds, and

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and often hurries them into Violence and Excess. Young Men are naturally furious in their Pursuits ; and having been carefully train'd up in the Belief of *one* particular Set of Opinions, and in a strong Veneration for *one* particular Body of Men, in Opposition to *another*, distinguish'd by different Names, They think that they cannot adhere to their *Denomination* with too much Obstinacy ; nor maintain what are called their *Principles* with too much Zeal and Vehemence. The common Prejudices and early Impressions of Education, join'd with a Deference to the Judgment of Parents and Instructors, seldom fail to produce these Effects. But this Warmth, like the Passion before-mentioned, generally wears off with the Advance of Years. We cool by Degrees, as we grow old, in our Affection for *empty Names* and *idle distinctions* ; being taught by Experience that *One* as well as the *Other* is *all Vanity and Vexation of Spirit*.

There are, indeed, some Men, who carry both these Passions along with them to the Grave, and discover all the Violence of Youth in the Impotence of old Age ; but what a ridiculous and contemptible Figure do They make in either Case ? There is, methinks, a very near Resemblance between an *old doting Partisan* and a *superannuated Lover* ; for however excusable or becoming these Passions may be, at proper Seasons, in young Men ; such a *political Bigotry* and fondness for *Names*, without any Meaning, are as unbecoming *Wrinkles* and *grey Hairs*, as *Veneries* and *Lewdness*.

But lest I should be misunderstood, or misrepresented on this Subject, as endeavouring to write down all Zeal for publick Good, and discourage all Distinction between the *Friends* and *Enemies* of our Country ; I design to explain what I mean by a *Coalition of Parties*, and how far I could wish that all Names of *Distinction* were laid aside.

Every

Every Body knows that, for near a *Century* past, this Kingdom hath been almost continually agitated with Contentions ; occasion'd by mutual Jealousies and Uneasinesses between the *Prince* and the *People*, for *Liberty* on one Side, and the *Prerogative* on the other ; in which also *Religion* has been not a little concern'd. These Disputes, which have divided the Nation into two great Factions, and brought about several wonderful Revolutions in our Government, seem, at present, to be in a great Measure terminated by the firm Establishment of the *Protestant Succession*, against all Attempts to defeat it ; and by the general Affection of the People to his Majesty's Person, Family and Government.

Notwithstanding This, the Names of *Distinction* are still kept up, when our Differences are so generally reconcil'd ; and we preserve the same Bitterness, Hatred and Animosity against one another, whilst we are in the *same Interest*, and pursue the *same End*, as when we professed *contrary Views*, and took *Measures* diametrically opposite.

If you ask a *Whig* for his Opinion of a *Tory*, he'll tell you, in general, that he is a *Jacobite* or a *Papist* ; a Friend to *arbitrary Government*, and against the *Liberties* of the People both in *Church* and *State*.

Take the Character of a *Whig*, in like Manner, from a *Tory*, and you will hear him describ'd to be a Man of *Republican Principles* ; a *Presbyterian* ; and a sworn Enemy to the Church of *England*, and the *regal Prerogative* ; nay, it will be well for him, if he is not set forth as a downright *Atheist*, or *Liber-tine*, and an Enemy to *all Government* whatsoever.

But will either a *Whig* or a *Tory*, if you put the same Questions separately to them, acknowledge these *Characters* to be just ; or adopt such *Principles* as their own ? No ; there is not, I believe, one in an hundred of either Party, who would not deny them in the most solemn Manner ; and exclaim very loudly against such uncha-

uncharitable Treatment ; the just Inference from which is, that as every Man must be supposed to wish for his own Happiness, and consequently for the Welfare of his Country ; so no Man of common Sense, who hath the least Knowledge of the Constitution of this Nation, can possibly espouse *such Principles* ; and therefore it is very unjust to charge any Person with maintaining Tenets, which he solemnly denies ; and which, being inconsistent with his own Interest, he cannot reasonably be supposed to maintain.

It must be confessed, indeed, that there are still some Persons, who, either from the unhappy Tendency of their Religion, from old inveterate Prejudices, or an unaccountable Way of thinking, are so far Enemies to themselves, as to wish for the Subversion of this Government in Favour of a *Popish Pretender*, and arbitrary Power ; but These, it is to be hoped, are so inconsiderable for their *Numbers*, and more so for their *Riches* and *Strength*, that their Principles ought not to be extended to the whole Body, or even to the major Part of the *Tories*, though they have generally passed, in our party Contests, under that Denomination.

What therefore is to be wish'd, in our present Circumstances, is that all Persons, however distinguish'd by party Appellations, who are truly in the Interest of the *present Government*, and desire the Continuance of it, would consolidate themselves into a Body, and unite in Measures against the *common Enemies* of their Country, whether *foreign* or *domestick* ; that they would forget all their former unreasonable Animosities ; and whilst they are equally exerting their Endeavours to accomplish the *same End*, viz. the Happiness of their Country, that they would not quarrel with one another about any Differences in Judgment concerning the *Means*.

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ons of its *Danger* ; and content themselves with those Rights, Immunities and Powers, with which the Law hath invested them, without endeavouring to stretch them any farther. Let the *Protestant Dissenter* acquiesce under that *Toleration* and those *Privileges*, with which the Legislature hath thought fit to indulge him. Let the *Whig* enjoy his *Liberty* and *Property* in its fullest Latitude, without reproaching the *Tory* as an Enemy to both ; and let the *Tory*, in his Turn, drop all his Bitterness and Malevolence against the *Whig*, as disaffected to *Monarchy* and *Religion* ; or rather let the very Names of *Whig* and *Tory* be forever buried in Oblivion ; and let there be, for the future, no other Distinction known amongst us, but of “ Those, (as our late glorious Deliverer express’d it) “ who are for the *Protestant Religion* and the present *Establishment* ; and of Those, who mean a “ *Papish Prince* and a *French Government* .”

I would not be understood, by such a *Coalition*, to mean a sordid Compliance, at all Times, with the Measures of a *Court* or the Demands of *great Men* ; for as Ministers often have private, selfish Views, separate from the Interest of their Prince, as well as their Country, it is the Duty of every loyal Subject and honest *Briton* to oppose and use all his Endeavours to defeat them. *Cicero* very justly observes, that such a mean *Subserviency* is rather a *Conspiracy* than a *Coalition*. *Si omnia facienda sunt, quæ Amici velint, non Amicitia tales, sed Conjuraciones putanda sunt.*

Neither do I esteem the *Conjunction* of a few LEADING MEN on both Sides, for *venal* and *corrupt Ends*, to be properly a *Coalition of Parties* ; or such an Union as is desirable in any Nation ; for, at this Rate, *Catiline* and his Associates might have sanctified their *Conspiracy* with the Name of a *Coalition*, because there were wicked Men of all Parties engaged in that Design ; but we know in what Light their detestable Transactions were look’d upon by the honest Part of the

the *Roman* People; and indeed all *Combinations*, of this kind, in any Nation, ought to be rejected and abhorred by the united Body of *both Parties*; because both Parties are equally *deserted* and *betrayed* by such *Combinations*.

In fine, by a *Coalition* I mean the cordial Union and Co-operation of Persons of all Denominations in the true Interest and Service of their Country, without any Attachment to *vain Names*; which can serve only to keep alive our destructive Animosities and promote the sinister Views of ambitious Men, at the Expence of our private Happiness and the publick Good. As This is the only *Coalition*, which can either be desired or justified, so I hope my Countrymen will no longer suffer themselves to be imposed on by artful *Demagogues* and ill designing Patrons of *Faction*; especially since Experience has, I think, sufficiently taught them the *Mischief* and *Folly* of such Conduct. Instead of dividing ourselves into opposite Parties, and branding one another with odious Distinctions, let us chearfully concur in the common Cause, and make the Interest of *Great-Britain* the only Rule of all our Actions. Let us not, for the future, run blind-fold into any Proposals, however romantick and unreasonable, because they are offered by *one Set* of Men; nor madly shut our Ears to any Objections, however just and well-grounded, because they are started by *another*. This will be the surest and only Method of restoring *Peace* and *Commerce*; of reviving our drooping *Manufactures*; of lessening our *Debts*, and reducing our *Taxes*; at the same Time that it will most effectually secure us from *foreign Violence* and protect us against *domestick Corruption*. D.

Y

Friday,